

## **CLAIMS**

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new and desired to be secured by Letters Patent is as follows:

- 1        1. A headset for receiving and sending voice communications, comprising:
  - 2            a support structure for supporting the headset hands-free on a user's head;
  - 3            a boom connected to the support structure for positioning a microphone adjacent to a user's mouth, said boom having a first side facing the user's head and a second side facing away from the user's head, and said second side of the boom having a groove formed therein; and
  - 4            a plurality of spaced-apart lights positioned in the groove on the second side of the boom, said lights being operable to provide an in-use indicator for the headset.
- 7        2. The headset according to claim 1, wherein said support structure comprises an ear-clip configuration that attaches to a user's ear.
- 1        3. The headset according to claim 1, wherein said support structure comprises a headband having a first end attached to a body of the headset and a free end adapted to engage an opposite side of a user's head.
- 1        4. The headset according to claim 3, further comprising at least one additional light positioned at the free end of the headband, said additional light being operable to provide an additional in-use indicator for the headset.

1       5. The headset according to claim 1, wherein said groove formed in the second  
2       side of the boom is arranged to point away from the user's eyes at all points along the  
3       second side of the boom and thereby shield the user's eyes from light emitted from the  
4       spaced-apart lights during an in-use condition of the headset.

1       6. The headset according to claim 1, further comprising a control circuit for  
2       activating said spaced-apart lights, said control circuit comprising a modulating  
3       means for determining which of the spaced-apart lights to activate based on a detected  
4       volume of incoming or outgoing sound.

1       7. The headset according to claim 6, wherein said modulating means is  
2       arranged to activate more of the spaced-apart lights as the detected volume gets  
3       louder.

1       8. The headset according to claim 6, wherein said control circuit further  
2       comprises a means for flashing at least some of the spaced-apart lights during an in-  
3       use condition of the headset.

1       9. The headset according to claim 1, further comprising a control circuit for  
2       activating said spaced-apart lights, said control circuit comprising a means for  
3       flashing the spaced-apart lights to indicate an in-use condition of the headset.

1           10. The headset according to claim 1, wherein said control circuit further  
2           comprises a means for adjusting a frequency of flashing provided by said flashing  
3           means.

1           11. The headset according to claim 1, wherein said lights are LEDs.

1           12. The headset according to claim 1, wherein said boom has a first end  
2           adjacent to the support structure and a second end adjacent to the microphone, and  
3           said groove extends along substantially an entire length of the boom between the first  
4           and second ends.

1       13. A telephone headset, comprising:  
2       a support structure for supporting the headset hands-free on a user's head;  
3       a boom connected to the support structure for positioning a microphone near a  
4       user's mouth, said boom having a side facing away from the user's head  
5       and a groove formed in said side; and  
6       at least one light source positioned in the groove on the boom and arranged such  
7       that the light source is completely shielded from the user's eyes to provide  
8       an in-use indicator for the headset that does not bother the user.

1       14. The telephone headset according to claim 13, wherein said at least one light  
2       source is a plurality of LEDs positioned in the groove and spaced along a length of the  
3       boom.

1       15. The telephone headset according to claim 13, wherein said at least one light  
2       source is a monolithic strip placed within the groove and extending along a length of  
3       the boom.

1       16. The telephone headset according to claim 13, further comprising a control  
2       circuit for determining an in-use condition of the headset and activating the light  
3       source during said in-use condition.

1       17. The telephone headset according to claim 16, wherein said control circuit  
2       includes a flasher means for causing the light source to flash during said in-use  
3       condition.

1        18. The telephone headset according to claim 16, wherein said at least one light  
2        source is a plurality of LEDs positioned in the groove and spaced along a length of the  
3        boom, and wherein said control circuit includes a modulator means for modulating  
4        which LEDs are activated during said in-use condition based on a detected volume of  
5        incoming or outgoing sound.

1       19. A telephone headset, comprising:

2       a support structure for supporting the headset hands-free on a user's head, said

3           support structure including an earpiece for transmitting sounds to a user's

4           ear;

5       a boom having a first end connected to the support structure and a second end

6           containing a microphone for receiving sounds from a user's mouth, said

7           boom having a side facing away from the user's head and a groove formed

8           in said side, said groove extending along substantially an entire length of

9           said boom from said first end to said second end;

10      a plurality of LEDs positioned in the groove on the boom and spaced apart

11           along the length of the boom, said LEDs being arranged so as to be

12           completely shielded from the user's eyes when the headset is supported on

13           the user's head; and

14      a control circuit with a flasher for flashing the LEDs when the telephone is in-

15           use.

1       20. The telephone headset according to claim 19, wherein said control circuit

2       includes a modulator means for modulating which LEDs are activated when the

3       telephone is in-use based on a detected volume of incoming or outgoing sound.